

C 29837

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SECURITY INFORMATION

Country: Austria/Czechoslovakia/Poland/Rumania

Subject: Proposed Integration of West Polish and Czech Heavy Industry and Mining Enterprises/Reactivation of the Lower Silesian Copper Mines/Considerable Amounts of Kyanite Discovered in the District of Koralpe

DATE 3 Dec 53

RESPONSIVE TO

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Place Acquired:

25X1X6

Date Acquired:

Date (of Info): 15 Nov 53 and earlier

Source:

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AUSTRIA

1. "The Anglo-International Industry Ltd, the Alliance Europeene, and US industrial circles are interested in the mining of disthen (kyanite) in the area of the south-Austrian province of Carinthia, in the district of Koralpe. Estimates of geologists disclose that "considerable" (though undisclosed) amounts of kyanite are deposited especially in the Kragerberg and the Kreuzkogel mountains in the Koralpe district. It was stated recently in Vienna that millions of dollars are spent annually, to import this raw material from Asia to Europe, used in the fabrication of fire-proof bricks. Requirements are estimated at 13 thousand tons in Italy, and at least 10 thousand metric tons in Germany (Federal Republic) alone. The funds necessary to utilize the deposits are so large that only international circles are able to bring the project to realization.

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2. "The Austrian magnesite industry established an all-time high in monthly production during September 1953, when a total of 76,462 metric tons were mined.

"The September 1953 production of ores and minerals in Austria amounted to 233,490 metric tons of iron ore, 13,963 of copper ore, 8,796 of lead-zinc ores, 871 of antimony, 1,808 of bauxite, 21,077 of kaolin, and 7,121 tons of quartzite. About seven thousand miners are employed at the present time in Austria's non-coal mines.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

4. "Soviet demands work toward the integration of the West-Polish and Czech heavy industry and mining enterprises into a huge combine. West Galician iron ore, and coal from the Czech mines at Ostrawa are to be processed in the iron and steel combines of both countries. Despite the steep increase in the mining of iron ore in the Slovakian and Polish mines

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(1948 level known to be 3,250,000 metric tons), the volume does not meet the requirements of processing enterprises. Ability to compete with West Europe is hampered further by the low quality of the coke, which is very much inferior to the Ruhr quality. Czechoslovakia's crude steel production is to reach 5,200,000 metric tons during 1953, the production of pig iron four million metric tons.

POLAND

5. "The Polish Ministry of Mining has ordered the reactivation of the Lower Silesian copper mines of the former German Berg und Huetten AG, a subsidiary of the G Giesche's Erben Mining Company. To process the copper ore mined in this area, which since 1945 is Polish territory (taken from the Germans), the combine 'Konrad' in Boleswicz will receive machinery. Furthermore, a copper ore mine near the combine is to be enlarged. This mine also was part of a German company prior to 1945. ✓

RUMANIA

6. "Newly developed mining machinery is now [15 Nov 53] being produced in Rumania at an increasing rate. First, a new type of light, operating on the 'induction' principle (sic) has been ordered in large quantities, while the production of new cutters is very young. The old types of cutters have been modified to permit lighter weight and better replacement of parts. The tendency in the development of Rumanian mining equipment is directed toward the easiest repair of all machinery without bringing it to the surface."

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